

ER 10-894

8 February 1958

The Honorable George H. Mahon
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mahon:

This concerns our recent discussion regarding the relationship of the Central Intelligence Agency with the CIA Subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations and Armed Services.

You will find that this subject is covered at some length in the debate on the so-called Mansfield Bill (S. Com. Res. 2) which took place on April 9 and 11, 1956, and is covered on pages 5290 - 5317, 5411 - 5426, 5428, and 5430 - 5431 of the Congressional Record. During this debate it was stressed, particularly by Senators Russell and Saltonstall, that there were formally constituted Subcommittees on Appropriations and Armed Services in both Houses that concern themselves with the CIA. The question was raised as to how often these Subcommittees met and it was stated that Armed Services generally met with the CIA two or three times a year and that the Appropriations Subcommittee met at least once a year. The proponents of the bill argued that this was insufficient to provide a thorough examination of CIA's activities, while the opponents of the proposal stated that they believed that Congress had ample authority to examine the Agency and that if there was any failure, it did not rest with the CIA.

Senator Hayden not only spoke against the bill, but also presented a rather lengthy exhibit summarizing his views, which is printed on pages 5422 and 5423 of the Congressional Record.

Enclosed are the pertinent extracts from the Congressional Record. Please do not hesitate to call on me if I may be of any further assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,

LE Kirpatrick:rm
Orig. addressee
1 - ODCI
2 - OGC/LC ✓
3 - PG
s/
Allen W. Dulles
Director

Enclosure

On 31 October 1956, in a television and radio report to the nation on the Middle East Crisis, President Eisenhower said,

"The U.S. was not consulted in any way about any phase of these actions. Nor were we informed of them in advance."

In the New York Times of October 31, James Reston wrote that James Hagerty, press secretary at the White House,

"made a point of saying that General Eisenhower knew nothing of the British-French ultimatum until he was handed press reports this afternoon."

(This afternoon" meant Wednesday, October 30.)

The New York Times of October 31, page 15, gave the following as Mr. Hagerty's prepared statement:

"As soon as the President received his first knowledge, obtained through press reports, of the ultimatum delivered by the French and United Kingdom's Governments to Egypt and Israel, planning temporary occupation within twelve hours of the Suez Canal Zone, he sent an urgent personal message to the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Prime Minister of the Republic of France ... "